

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hideki TATEMATSU et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/543,190  
Filed : July 22, 2005  
For : FIXING APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 2861  
Examiner: Huan Huu Tran  
Conf. No.: 5587

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of January 11, 2007, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on April 11, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action together with consideration and allowance of all the claims pending herein, in due course.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.